

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gianos et al. (US Patent 4,014,653). Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cosack (US Patent 5,096,575). Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Gianos (US Patent 4,014,653). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As amended, claim 1 recites “wherein a diameter of an inner end of the opening edge matches a diameter of an end at an inner perimeter side of the sandwiching face.”

According to the invention, it is important that “the end and the diameter at the inner diameter of the opening edge match the diameter of the end at the inner perimeter side of the sandwiching face”; this description is supported by second paragraph on page 9, lines 10-14 of the specification; and, in addition, it is important in Fig. 4 of the application to match the point 24a with the point 14c. In order to perform this, it is effective to fix the barrel and the cap in a state of the barrel and the cap being fitted without a gap and the porous membrane being crushed. If these two points do not match because there occurs a step difference in addition to the filtration effective area being large as much as possible, there remains a liquid at the step difference. Insert molding is effective for making the gap between the barrel and the cap zero. If the barrel is fixed finally, a positional displacement is eliminated due to individual strains of both when there occurs such a heat expansion.

Applicants submit that the prior art cited by the Examiner does not teach or suggest this aspect of the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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